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## THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser.

## Hawaiian Tradition of the Origin

of Fire. [Collected and Translated by A. O. Forbes.]

The Hawaiians formerly produced fire by rub ng a piece of hard wood upon a softer one, til the heat, engendered by the friction, proed combustion among the fine tinder-like articles or fibres of the softer piece, which had en dislodged by the action of the barder piece. The soft piece was usually placed on the ground, on some suitable support, while the harder piece was held firmly with both hands in a slanting direction, and the necessary friction produced y rubbing the end of it smartly upon the softer ece in a longitudinal direction. The piece held the hands was called an Aulima, and that on which the fire was produced, was called the

Hawaiian tradition states that there was a time then fire was unknown to this people, and refers oir first knowledge of it to the common muden, or coot, so abundant in most of the ponds nd marshes of these islands. Whoever has oberved these birds, has noticed a fleshy or callous oot on the front part of the head, at the root of e beak. In some, it is of a clear white; in hers, of a bright crimson color. The latter are e birds who were originally the possessors of re, and from whom it passed into the possession of the people.

This acquisition is connected, in the tradition, ith the name of Maui, a celebrated personage of

This Maui was the son of Hina and Akalana d dwelt with his parents at Kipahulu, on East aui. Akalana, however, was only his foster ner. There were also three other sons, the spring of Hina and Akalana, named respectely, Maui-mua, Maui-hope, and Maui-kiikii, Maui first, Maui next, and Maui big-bellied.) at this one was called Maui Akalana. Maui Akalana grew to manhood, being fed only on uncoked food; for they had no fire in those days, and what they ate was prepared by burying it in

be ground. There were potatoes, and kalo, and yams, and root, but there was no way of cooking them. Maui, therefore, asked Hina, his mother, one day, " How shall we cook these things?"

She answered " Fire will cook them." Who has the fire?" " The Alae (mud-hens) have it."

Then I will go and get it." When thy strength and swiftness are great. u mayest get it."

I am able," answered Maui. Now he and his brothers often went out fishing together in their canoes. And as they were fish-, they often saw the fires which the Alae had

adled on the land to cook their food. And ni of anded and pursued the birds to obthe fire; but when he came near them, lo! in a twinkling, they gathered up the fire, the es, the wood, and the bananas, and flew away, lling him and saying " Ah! now indeed thy will be cooked, thou mean looking coward. ft indeed is the son of Hina."

hus he and his brothers pursued their way, ing as they went, until they arrived at Waie, on Oahu. here again they saw the fires lighted on the

Thus it continued for five successive days. en said Maui to his brethren, " I am going the fire." You will not get it, for those to whom the

belongs are birds." I will get it. Stay you here and fish while

But the birds will discover your abscence your cance." I will set up my fish-line calabash in the end

he canoe, and they will think it is a man." they consented, and while they went a fish-Maui proceeded inland toward the place re the birds were. When he was near the , he hid himself behind a rock. And the s counted the men in the canoes at the sea, saw, as they supposed, five men as before. n they built a fire, and proceeded to cook their has as usual. While they were thus cooking r food, Mani suddenly sprang from his hiding ee and seized one of them, with the wood, and bananas. At this the rest took alarm, and shed the fire out with their wings, and even nt away the ashes. Maui then tied the feet his bird, and was about to wring its neck in ange for his disappointment, when the Alae ed out, "Kill me not, or you get no fire." Then give me the fire," demanded be. "Go and rub the stem of the taro leaf for your fire,"

to he obtained a taro leaf and rubbed away, and the hollow made by his rubbing remains in stem of the leaf to this day.

Again he demanded of the Alae, "Give me fire. If not, you die. There is no escape." Go and rub on the stem of the ti leaf," re-

ed the bird. e rubbed away at the stem of the ti leaf, Merchant Tailors, but no fire appeared, though his rubbing made a low which remains in the stem to this day. Opposite Theod. C. Henck's. wrath flowed over, and he went back determ-C. L. RICHARDS & CO., to kill the bird. But the Alae again spoke,

Keep constantly on hand a full assortment of merchandise, for the supply of Whalers and Merchant vessels. he demanded once more the secret of the L. L. TORBERT. wai means water. So he went and rubbed Dealer in all kinds of Building Materials,

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ast obtained fire. And as a punishment for tking him, he seized the bird and rubbed its IRA RICHARDSON. Furnishing Goods, Perfumery, &c.

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n lowa editor, in noticing a church choir, said : is like drift wood in a stream—it drags on the yet don't amount to a dam."

on the ignited wood until the raw red flesh

eared on its forehead; wherefore the bird is ed A-lae, (burning forehead), to this day.—

surface of the water, but without success. Now thy death is sure. Thou shalt mock me onger," said he to the bird. But the Alae lied, "It was your own fault, I did not n wai-maoli, (water) but the tree called wai-

ing, " Kill me, and you lose the fire."

en said the Alse, "Go and rub the wai."

le Wreath. \*Also called by the natives olomea.